Washington State Institute for Public Policy

Benefit-Cost Results

The WSIPP benefit-cost analysis examines, on an apples-to-apples basis, the monetary value of programs or policies to determine whether the benefits from the program exceed its costs. WSIPP's research approach to identifying evidence-based programs and policies has three main steps. First, we determine "what works" (and what does not work) to improve outcomes using a statistical technique called meta-analysis. Second, we calculate whether the benefits of a program exceed its costs. Third, we estimate the risk of investing in a program by testing the sensitivity of our results. For more detail on our methods, see our technical manual.

Current estimates replace old estimates. Numbers will change over time as a result of model inputs and monetization methods.

Pre-K to 12 Education

Program name	Date of last literature review	Total benefits	Taxpayer benefits	Non-taxpayer benefits	Costs	Benefits minus costs (net present value)	Benefit to cost ratio	Odds of a positive net present value
State and district early childhood education programs	Dec. 2013	$31,673	$9,734	$21,939	($7,020)	$24,653	$4.51	83 %
Head Start	Dec. 2013	$22,452	$7,167	$15,286	($8,564)	$13,888	$2.63	89 %
Tutoring (vs. no tutoring) for English language learner students	Apr. 2012	$10,840	$2,557	$8,283	($1,393)	$9,447	$7.84	83 %
Special literacy instruction for English language learner students	Apr. 2012	$6,986	$1,583	$5,403	($288)	$6,698	$24.43	89 %
National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS) certification bonuses	Apr. 2012	$1,940	$439	$1,502	($70)	$1,871	$27.83	100 %
Class size: reducing average class size by one student in kindergarten	Jan. 2013	$1,825	$511	$1,314	($201)	$1,624	$9.07	97 %
Per-pupil expenditures: 10% increase for one student cohort from kindergarten through grade 12	Apr. 2012	$11,329	$3,122	$8,206	($10,579)	$750	$1.06	46 %
Class size: reducing average class size by one student in grade 1	Jan. 2013	$924	$259	$666	($201)	$723	$4.59	84 %
Class size: reducing average class size by one student in grade 2	Jan. 2013	$493	$159	$334	($201)	$292	$2.45	65 %
Teacher performance pay programs	Apr. 2012	$246	$58	$187	($35)	$211	$7.19	62 %
Class size: reducing average class size by one student in grade 3	Jan. 2013	$353	$123	$230	($201)	$152	$1.75	55 %
Class size: reducing average class size by one student in one grade, 9-12	Jan. 2013	$250	$88	$162	($162)	$87	$1.54	52 %
Class size: reducing average class size by one student in one grade, 7-8	Jan. 2013	$226	$83	$144	($165)	$62	$1.37	51 %
Class size: reducing average class size by one student in one grade, 4-6	Jan. 2013	$241	$90	$150	($182)	$59	$1.32	51 %
Additional day of K-12 instructional time	Apr. 2012	$83	$21	$61	($27)	$55	$3.02	56 %
Full-day kindergarten	Dec. 2013	($490)	$185	($675)	($2,649)	($3,140)	($0.19)	14 %
Even Start	Apr. 2012	($3,295)	($268)	($3,027)	($4,209)	($7,505)	($0.79)	9 %
Early Head Start	Apr. 2012	($1,751)	$3,129	($4,881)	($10,650)	($12,401)	($0.16)	29 %

Other Pre-K to 12 Education topics reviewed; benefit-cost results not yet available:

For benefit-cost results using new methods, please visit our July 2014 update.

Program name	Date of last literature review	Notes
Case management in schools	Jul. 2014	Click for meta-analytic results
Charter schools: Knowledge Is Power Program (KIPP)	Aug. 2013	Click for meta-analytic results
Charter schools: non-urban charter schools	Aug. 2013	Click for meta-analytic results
Charter schools: overall impact	Aug. 2013	Click for meta-analytic results
Charter schools: urban charter schools	Aug. 2013	Click for meta-analytic results
Consultant teachers: Coaching	Jul. 2014	Click for meta-analytic results
Consultant teachers: Content-Focused Coaching	Jul. 2014	Click for meta-analytic results
Consultant teachers: Literacy Collaborative	Jul. 2014	Click for meta-analytic results
Consultant teachers: Online coaching	Jul. 2014	Click for meta-analytic results
Educator professional development: Use of data to guide instruction	Jul. 2014	Click for meta-analytic results
Expeditionary Learning	Aug. 2013	Click for meta-analytic results
Mentoring for students: community-based (taxpayer costs only)	Jul. 2014	Click for meta-analytic results
Mentoring for students: community-based (with volunteer costs)	Jul. 2014	Click for meta-analytic results
Mentoring for students: school-based (taxpayer costs only)	Jul. 2014	Click for meta-analytic results
Mentoring for students: school-based (with volunteer costs)	Jul. 2014	Click for meta-analytic results
Model early childhood education programs	Dec. 2013	Click for meta-analytic results
Out-of-school-time tutoring by adults	Jul. 2014	Click for meta-analytic results
Parents as tutors with teacher oversight	Jul. 2014	Click for meta-analytic results
Pre-K and elementary bilingual instruction for English language learners	Apr. 2012	Click for meta-analytic results
Principal quality	Aug. 2013	Click for meta-analytic results
Project Lead The Way (PLTW)	Aug. 2013	Click for meta-analytic results
School-wide positive behavior programs	Jul. 2014	Click for meta-analytic results
Summer book programs: Multi-year intervention	Jul. 2014	Click for meta-analytic results
Summer book programs: One-year intervention	Jul. 2014	Click for meta-analytic results
Summer book programs: One-year intervention, with additional support	Jul. 2014	Click for meta-analytic results
Summer learning programs: Academically focused	Jul. 2014	Click for meta-analytic results
Teacher experience	Apr. 2012	Click for meta-analytic results
Teacher graduate degrees	Apr. 2012	Click for meta-analytic results
Teacher in-subject graduate degrees	Apr. 2012	Click for meta-analytic results
Teacher professional development: Induction/mentoring	Jul. 2014	Click for meta-analytic results
Teacher professional development: Not targeted	Jul. 2014	Click for meta-analytic results
Teacher professional development: Online, targeted	Jul. 2014	Click for meta-analytic results
Teacher professional development: Targeted	Jul. 2014	Click for meta-analytic results
Teacher professional development: Use of data to guide instruction	Jul. 2014	Click for meta-analytic results
Tutoring: By adults, one-on-one, non-structured	Jul. 2014	Click for meta-analytic results
Tutoring: By adults, one-on-one, structured	Jul. 2014	Click for meta-analytic results
Tutoring: By certificated teachers, small-group, structured	Jul. 2014	Click for meta-analytic results
Tutoring: By non-certificated adults, small-group, structured	Jul. 2014	Click for meta-analytic results
Tutoring: By peers, cross-age	Jul. 2014	Click for meta-analytic results
Tutoring: By peers, same-age and classwide	Jul. 2014	Click for meta-analytic results
Credit retrieval	Jun. 2014	No rigorous evaluations to date.
Parent and family engagement coordinators	Jun. 2014	No rigorous evaluations to date.
K-12 teacher effectiveness	Dec. 2007	See previous WSIPP publication for past findings.
Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID)	Jul. 2013	Too few rigorous evaluations.
High Schools That Work (HSTW)	Jul. 2013	Too few rigorous evaluations.
International Baccalaureate	Jul. 2013	Too few rigorous evaluations.
K-12 educator professional learning communities	Jul. 2013	Too few rigorous evaluations.
MicroSociety	Jul. 2013	Too few rigorous evaluations.
Montessori in K-12	Jul. 2013	Too few rigorous evaluations.

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